



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
425 Shatto Place -- Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

DAVID SANDERS, Ph.D.
Director

Board of Supervisors

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March 21, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR INTERIM ORDINANCE AUTHORITY FOR FOUR ADMINISTRATIVE
POSITIONS TO STAFF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES'
MENTORING UNIT**

(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) – (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve interim ordinance authority pursuant to County Code Section 6.06.020, for three (3) Children's Services Administrator I (CSA I) and one (1) Administrative Assistant II (AA II) positions to augment existing staffing for the Mentoring Unit.
2. Authorize the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to fill the four positions with temporary appointments pending allocation by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). The cost of this staff for the remainder of FY 2005-06 will be approximately \$104,000 with approximately \$54,000 net County cost. Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2005-06 Adopted Budget.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Department of Children and Family Services is the public agency charged with child protection and service delivery to vulnerable and at-risk children, including those in foster care. On October 11, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Don Knabe instructing the Department to work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to identify and allocate resources to fully staff a Mentoring Unit in accordance with the recommendations made by the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Mentoring Task Force

Approval of this Board letter will allow the Department to hire the additional staff necessary to begin expanding mentoring capacity countywide by working closely with local community organizations to develop mentoring programs that work with foster youth. This staff will enable the Department to begin developing the County infrastructure to pursue the goal of providing mentoring resources for every foster child by the year 2010.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 5: Children and Family Well-being, as measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; social and emotional well-being; and educational/workforce readiness. These actions are also consistent with the Department's goals: reduced timelines to permanency, improved child safety, and reduced reliance on out-of-home care.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost for the additional four positions for the remainder of FY 2005-06 will be approximately \$104,000 with approximately \$54,000 net County cost. Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2005-06 Adopted Budget. DCFS is able to absorb the additional costs in FY 2005-06 due to anticipated savings in the Administration budget.

The cost for these positions in FY 2006-07 will be approximately \$357,000 with net County cost of \$186,000. DCFS' FY 2006-07 budget request included a request to fund these 4 additional positions, as well as two other positions for the mentoring program. The department requested additional funding for a total of six positions for mentoring in DCFS' FY 2006-07 budget request.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On January 4, 2005, the Board instructed the Department to assume the leadership role with ICAN in achieving the goal of providing a mentor for every foster child by the year 2010 and instructed ICAN to provide a status report to your Board. The Department redirected existing staff to work with the ICAN Task Force on Mentoring to develop the guidelines and a mentoring business plan. In October 2005, ICAN provided a status report containing the business plan and initial guidelines for mentoring foster youth. On October 11, 2005, your Board instructed the Director of DCFS to work in conjunction with the CAO to identify and allocate resources for mentoring.

Additionally, in 2005 California passed a state law, AB 1412, which expanded provisions first enacted in AB 408. AB 1412 requires social workers to ask foster youth in every type of out-of-home care placement about adult relationships that are important to them, and to

take actions to support and maintain those relationships and explore them as potential permanency options. Mentors for foster youth can play an important role as life-long connections that may even become permanent through adoption or guardianship, especially for youth with no other family connections.

Although interim ordinance authority is being requested for only four additional mentoring positions, it is DCFS' belief that six additional positions are needed. The CAO does not support the addition of two of the positions (one CSA I and a Senior Typist Clerk) at this time. The CAO will evaluate the need for this additional staff as part of the FY 2006-07 budget process.

The three CSA Is will work with community mentoring resources and contracted agencies (e.g., group homes and foster family agencies) in each Service Planning Area to monitor expansion of the availability of mentors for foster youth throughout the County. The AA II will collect data for evaluating progress. Existing clerical staff within DCFS' Bureau of Resources will provide any clerical support needed.

All appointments to these positions will be temporary pending DHR's determination of the appropriate payclass for the functions to be performed. In the event DHR determines lower level positions are more appropriate for the functions, the employees will be returned to the pay class they held prior to appointment to these temporary positions. If new hires are appointed to these positions, they will be subject to release from County employment or demotion.

The CAO and DHR have reviewed and approved this Board letter.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

With the addition of the staff requested, the Department will be able to develop the necessary mentoring resources to insure that no foster child leaves foster care without a connection to a caring adult. While the Department's emphasis is on Permanency through Family Reunification, Adoption or Legal Guardianship, mentors provide foster youth with a mentor connection concurrent with ongoing permanency planning. .

CONCLUSION

Upon approval of the recommended actions by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send one adopted stamped copy of the Board letter to the following:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Bureau of Resources

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

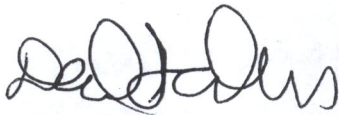
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425 Shatto Place, Suite 602
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Attn: Lisa Parrish, Deputy Director

2. Department of Children and Family Services
Budget Services
425 Shatto Place, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Attn: Tito Barin, Budget Officer

Respectfully Submitted,



DAVID SANDERS, Ph.D.
Director

DS:LP:WEG

- c: Chief Administrative Officer
Director, Department of Human Resources